

My wife Lindsay and I moved to Granger and joined the Saint Pius X community in March of 2014 when our oldest son James was 10 months old. On Monday we closed on our house. On Wednesday, we bought a new car. And on Friday, we found out we were expecting our second child, June.

I like to joke that it was the most exciting (and expensive) week of our lives.

Over the last 10 years our family has grown to include four more children (Jonathan, JT, Jack, and Josie) and each year we have been called—just like every other member of Saint Pius—to embrace Stewardship as a way of life by committing ourselves to prayer, service, and sacrificial giving.

Every night when we sit down for dinner, we make an effort to go around and play “High-Low-Buffer” where everyone talks about our “High” (best part of the day), “Low” (a not-so-good part of the day), and our “Buffer” (a surprising part of the day).

I can’t help but notice so many of the conversations that flow from this one simple prompt revolve around this place—Saint Pius—and so many of the wonderful ways the Parish community has wrapped its proverbial arms around our family.

From our 5-year old JT telling us that the best part of his day at the Little Lions preschool was going to Atrium for religion class, or 7-year old Jonathan saying the high point of his Sunday was helping to set up the placemats for the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, or Lindsay sharing about how she met a new mom friend at Kids of the Kingdom—it’s so evident to me how Saint Pius has blessed and impacted our family in so many positive ways.

Thinking about that—even right now—fills me with an immense sense of gratitude for this place, and all of the good our Parish community is trying to accomplish through our different initiatives, ministries, and outreach programs.

When we approach Sacrificial Giving from this sense of gratitude, rather than one of sheer responsibility or duty, it transforms our commitment from something that we feel like we “have to” do every year into something that we “get to” do to sustain our mission so that multitudes of other people—such as those in our local community, our sister parish of St. Adalbert’s, and the families of Fr. Larry’s parish in Uganda—can experience that same sense of Christian community that we are blessed to have here at Saint Pius.

And so I’d just like to offer this in closing. Before you pick up your Stewardship of Sacrificial Giving Commitment Form this year, take a moment to do a brief mental inventory of all the people, events, and graces that have filled your life—both directly and indirectly—because of Saint Pius.

Then, with gratitude at the forefront of your mind and a fresh realization that all of those good things come from God, complete your commitment for this year.

I’m confident it will transform your experience. It certainly has for our family.

Thank you for your time today, and for your continued generosity toward our Saint Pius community.